THE ACTRESS AND THE PLAYWRIGHT

THE END OF MY APPRENTICESHIP

1874

THE relation "between author and actor is a very important element in the life of the stage. It is the way with some dramatists to despise those who interpret their plays, to accuse us of raining their creations, to suffer disappointment and rage because we do not, or cannot, carry out their ideas.

Other dramatists admit that we players can teach them something; hut I have noticed that it is generally in " the other fellow's [J)] play that we can teach them, not in their own !

As they are necessary to us, and we to them, the great thing is to reduce friction by sympathy. The actor should understand that the author can he of use to him ; the author, on his side, should believe that the actor can be of service to the author, and sometimes in ways which only a long and severe training in the actor's trade can discover.

The first author with whom I had to deal, at a critical point in my progress as an actress, was Charles Reade, and he helped me enormously. He might, and often did,[make twelve suggestions that were wrong; but against